Please amend the Application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-9 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims 38-52:

38. A method of treating a patient having a chronic hepatitis C infection to eradicate detectable HCV-RNA as measured by quantitative PCR ("qPCR") which comprises (1) administering to the patient in a first treatment time period of at least about four weeks up to about twelve weeks, about 400-1600 mg per day of ribavirin and about 1.5 micrograms per kilogram of pegylated interferon-alfa-2b twice a week, followed by (2) administering to the patient in a second treatment time period of about thirty-six weeks up to about forty-four weeks, about 800-1200 mg per day of ribavirin and about 0.5 to about 1.5 kilogram per micrograms of pegylated interferon-alfa-2b once a week, wherein the patient has no detectable HCV-RNA as measured by qPCR at the end of the second treatment time period and no detectable HCV-RNA as measured by qPCR for at least 24 weeks after the end of the second treatment time period.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the amount of ribavirin administered in the first treatment time period is from 600 to 1600 mg per day.

40. The method of claim 38, wherein the amount of ribavirin administered in the second treatment time period is from 1000 to 1600 mg per day.

41. The method of claim 38, wherein the the first treatment time period is four weeks and the second period is forty-four weeks.

42. The method of claim 38, wherein the amount of pegylated interferon alfa-2b administered in second treatment time period is 1.5 micrograms/kilogram once a week.

43. The method of claim 38, wherein the amount of ribavirin administered in the first and second treatment time periods is from about 800 to 1200 mg per day.

44. The method of claim 38 wherein the amount of ribavirin administered in the first and second treatment time period is about 1000 to 1200 mg/kg per day.

45. A method of treating a patient having a chronic hepatitis C infection to eradicate detectable HCV-RNA as measured by qPCR which comprises (1) administering to the pateint, in a first treatment time period week of about four weeks, about 400-1600 mg per day of ribavirin and 1.5 micrograms per kilogram of pegylated interferon-alfa-2b twice a week, followed by (2) administering to the patient, in a second treatment time period of about forty-four weeks, about 800-1200 mg per day of ribavirin and about 0.5 to 1.5 micrograms per kilogram of pegylated interferon-alfa-2b once a week wherein the patient has no detectable HCV-RNA as measured by qPCR at the end of the second treatment time period and no detectable HCV-RNA as measured by qPCR for at least 24 weeks after the end of the second treatment time period.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein the amount of ribavirin administered in the first treatment time period is from 600 to 1600 mg per day.

47. The method of claim 45, wherein the amount of ribavirin administered in the second treatment time period is from 1000 to 1600 mg per day.

48. The method of claim 45, wherein the amount of ribavirin administered in the first and second treatment time periods is from about 800 to 1200 mg per day.

49. The method of claim 45 wherein the patient having chronic hepatitis C infection is a naive patient having HCV genotype 1, 2 or 3.

50. The method of claim 45, wherein the amount of pegylated interferon alfa-2b administered in second time period is 1.5 micrograms/kilogram once a week.

51. The method of claim 45, wherein the amount of pegylated interferon alfa-2b administered in second time period is 1.0 micrograms/kilogram once a week.

52. The method of claim 45, wherein the amount of pegylated interferon alfa-2b administered in second time period is 0.5 micrograms/kilogram once a week.